

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants have studied the office action mailed March 20, 2008, and have made the changes believed appropriate to place the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Nonmethod claims 12-44 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims prior to this Amendment is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Claims were cancelled in this Amendment to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the pending claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by the cancelled claims as presented prior to this Amendment and additional claims in one or more continuing applications.

Claims 1-20 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,455. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted that the Examiner has not yet indicated subject matter which is allowable apart from the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, applicants response to the double patenting rejection is deferred until the Examiner has indicated that there is otherwise allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Steele et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,884,056 (referred to hereafter as Steele). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, for example, is directed to a “method for providing stream linking in audio/video disk media, comprising: when additional reading or writing locations in streams are desired, sending a linked stream request with a number of a primary stream; initiating a linked stream that is linked to the primary stream; setting a pointer for the linked stream to the same location as a pointer for the primary stream; and during operation, processing the pointers for both the linked stream and the primary stream.” It is the Examiner’s position that the limitation “initiating a linked stream that is linked to the primary stream” is met by the Steele reference citing col. 9 lines 32-52 of the Steele reference. The applicants respectfully disagree.

For example, it appears to be the Examiner's position that the sequence 52 (Fig. 7) of thumbnail images of the Steele reference is a "stream" as that term is used in claim 1. However, even if the Examiner's position were assumed to be correct, a position not conceded by the present applicants, it is clear that the Examiner has failed to cite any teaching or suggestion of "initiating a linked stream that is linked to the primary stream" as required by claim 1. On the contrary, even if it is assumed (as set forth above) that the sequence 52 (Fig. 7) of thumbnail images is a "stream" as that term is used in claim 1, it is clear that the Examiner's citations to the Steele reference discuss having only one sequence of thumbnails at a time. Thus, if a user selects a thumbnail, the server selects a "new set of key frames falling between the selected frame and the next frame (step 60) ... and the selected new frames are then displayed (step 62), essentially in the same manner as before (steps 30 and 32 of the FIG. 4)." Steel, col. 9, lines 32 set seq. Thus, it appears that the initial sequence of thumbnails is discarded and a different set of thumbnails is substituted. Accordingly, it is clear that the Examiner has failed to cite any teaching or suggestion of "initiating a linked stream that is linked to the primary stream" as required by claim 1.

The rejection of the dependent claims is improper for the reasons given above. Moreover, the dependent claims include additional limitations, which in combination with the base and intervening claims from which they depend provide still further grounds of patentability over the cited art.

The Examiner has made various comments concerning the anticipation or obviousness of certain features of the present inventions. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants have addressed those comments directly hereinabove or the Examiner's comments are deemed moot in view of the above response.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable. Should any additional fees be required beyond those paid, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0466.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7970 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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